

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS
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February 25, 2010

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Dept.
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Reference Docket No. 2009-489-E Dear Public Service Commission:

As a resident of South Carolina since 1973, I have lost respect for South Carolina Electric & Gas, our skirt chasing politicians, and the lack of concern this state has for the citizens. After moving here from Georgia, I was thrilled to move into the beautiful City of Charleston. However, when I got my first utility bill, I realized living in South Carolina is expensive, especially in the City of Charleston. I was amazed at the escalating price of electricity in this state. Unfortunately, it has gotten significantly worse and continues to rise. Does anyone EVER listen to the citizens of this state?

South Carolina has the fourth highest unemployment rate in our Nation – presently 12.6% and it is steadily rising. I represent one of the unemployed! The cost of living in this state continues to rise, especially near the coast. I live exactly four miles from the ocean. My homeowners insurance policy has escalated from \$898 in 1999 to an outrageous \$6,795 for 2010 – never have I filed a claim, with exception of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Writing complaints to the Insurance Commission never did I hear one word! Nothing is ever done in South Carolina to assist the citizens. It appears this state is more interested in providing for the needs of criminals and the illegals that enter the state, and those who beat the system, than it is for those who walk a straight line, work to be respected citizens and earn a respectable living. Now, SCE&G is requesting another increase. To say I am outraged is an understatement. My husband and I have considered moving from this state, simply because we are reaching the age when retirement will occur and we are fearful we will lose everything we've worked so hard to build in South Carolina. My current monthly electric bill is a 'budget plan' of \$271 monthly. If this 10% increase occurs again, how will I manage to budget these fees? While I recognize CEO's do not need to budget, our State, (and our citizens) certainly do. We must do something to stop this. NOW! I would like to go on record to oppose this increase, based on the following:

- SCE&G was approved for a 2.5 percent rate increase annually for the next decade, following a 4.4 percent rate hike in 2008.
- New rate hike will boost residential power bills for the average SCE&G customer by about \$140 a year by July 2011.
- For Duke Power customers, the cost of 1,000 kilowatt hours is about \$93, following its recent rate increase. For SCE&G, the same level of power costs \$118. The rate boost, if granted, would put it at \$130.
- SCE&G has higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, as well as publicly owned Santee-Cooper.

Please reconsider these decisions for the State of South Carolina. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbie Perkins-Cooper

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